

Umetco Minerals Corporation



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July 10, 1987

Mr. Steve McNeal
Division of Environmental Health
Utah Department of Health
150 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Dear Mr. McNeal:

Re: Hecla Treatment Plant and Silver Bell Mine Discharge Analyses

We have received the analyses for the last water samples for the above-named facilities. The results are as follows:

	<u>Hecla Treatment Plant</u>	<u>Silver Bell Mine Discharge</u>
pH (Field)	6.5	6.5
Ra226, pCi/l (R)	7.9 + 1.7	13 + 3
Nat. Uranium, pCi/l (R)	154	1890
TDS, mg/l	568	1288
TSS, mg/l	6	37

The Ra226 concentration in the discharge water from the Hecla treatment was 7.9 pCi/l. I cannot explain this continued downward trend in Ra226 concentrations. The laboratory personnel at the White Mesa mill are planning on setting up a test column with the Dow XF S43230 resin from the Hecla treatment plant and, also, to set up a test column with new resin. This comparison test may help in determining the cause for the poor performance of the ion exchange column.

Preparations are being made to start construction of the evaporation pond at the Wilson-Silver Bell mines according to the construction permit issued by the Utah Department of Health.

Yours truly,

Niels B. Haubold
N. B. Haubold
Manager of Mines

cc: Messrs. D. Ariotti
Southeast District Engineer

R. F. Barnett
J. L. Hasty
R. K. Jones